

WILDLIFE HABITAT LAND PROJECT PROPOSAL

1. **Region:** 3 **Regional Supervisor:** Mark Deleray
Name of Applicant: Vanna Boccadori
Date: 16 May 2019
2. **Project Name:** Grassy Mtn Addition **Type of Project:** Fee Title
3. **Size:** 244 acres
4. **Location:** Region 3, Deer Lodge County, 10 miles south of Anaconda, MT, adjacent to the north-central boundary of Mt Haggin WMA 3N 11W sec 17
5. **Maps:**

Figure 1: Overview of Grassy Mtn Addition location relative to surrounding FWP wildlife management areas and Anaconda, MT.

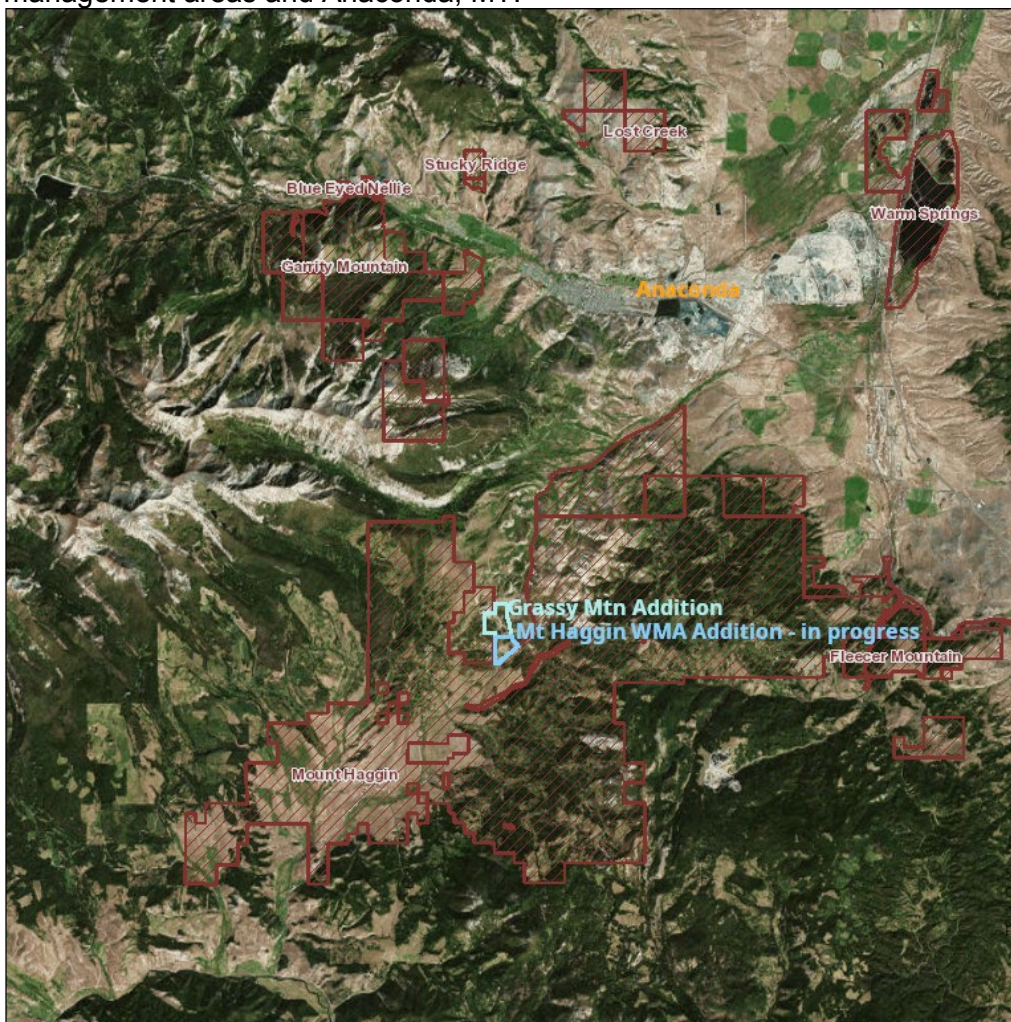


Figure 2: Close-up of Grassy Mtn Addition location. Note shared border with Mt Haggin WMA (red hashed area) to the west and with the Mt Haggin WMA Addition acquisition (in progress) to the south.



6. Project Need – up to 10 pts.

Grassy Mtn Addition property offers many qualities that are attractive to FWP:

- It borders Mt Haggin WMA on its western boundary.
- It borders the Mt Haggin WMA Addition property (acquisition in progress) on its southern boundary.
- It includes 1 mile of riparian corridor and associated wetlands of Oregon Creek.
- Located just below the Continental Divide, it provides migration corridors for mule deer and elk along with calving/fawning areas and summer range.
- Sugarloaf Lodge property (~150 ac), a thriving commercial recreational property, borders the Grassy Mtn Addition on the east. It is currently for sale, making the

Grassy Mtn Addition property more at risk for development, especially with the Mt Haggin WMA cross-country ski trails nearby.

- It would increase public access for hunting, angling, trapping, wildlife-watching and other recreational opportunities.
- There is no development on the property.

7. Broad Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitat Criteria – up to 10 pts.

- Riparian/Wetland (25%)
- Montane Grassland (25%)
- Conifer Forest (50%)

8. Project Level Criteria

a) Site-Specific Habitat Values – up to 10 pts.

The Mt Haggin WMA Addition property functions as part of the Mt Haggin elk calving area and summer range located east of the continental divide. This general area supports 400-500 elk that winter west of the divide and migrate over the pass to calve and summer. The riparian habitat associated with Oregon Creek provides year-round habitat for moose, beaver, mink, mountain grouse and numerous songbird species. The creek provides native cutthroat trout fisheries.

b) Threat Status: IMMINENT - 10 pts:

Grassy Mtn Addition property is perfect for development as a recreational property. It borders Mt Haggin WMA, has easy access from MT Highway 569, is located across the highway from the Mt Haggin WMA cross-country ski trails and snowmobile parking area, and is adjacent to the Sugarloaf Lodge, a thriving private recreational business property that is also currently for sale. The natural beauty of the Grassy Mtn Addition property, wildlife values, and the Continental Divide practically in the backyard, make this a desirable recreational property for someone with the financial means. It's located 10 miles from Anaconda's hospital and other amenities and 25 miles from the Butte airport.

c) Focal Priority – up to 10 pts.

Grassy Mtn Addition is located within Priority Area C (Anaconda Range to Big Hole, etc) for big game migration corridors according to the 2018 Montana State Action Plan developed in response to Secretarial Order 3362. According to the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan, this property does not occur within a regional focal area. It is classified in part as Tier 1 Wetland (Wet Meadow) and Tier 1 Montane Grassland, both priority community types. According to SWAP, conservation at the community type level provides the potential to leverage conservation resources to benefit large numbers of species. Because this property is adjacent to Mt Haggin WMA, acquisition of it will compound existing conservation benefits to wildlife resources in this area.

d) Geographic Effectiveness – up to 10 pts.

Grassy Mtn Addition property is 244 acres that shares its western border with Mt Haggin WMA. It contains ~60 acres of riparian and wetland habitat that provide critical moist meadows especially during late summer. Acquisition of this property would have a synergistic effect for wildlife conservation given its location adjacent to

Mt Haggin WMA and the soon to be completed acquisition of the Mt Haggin WMA Addition property.

- e) **Contribute to hunting, fishing opportunity and other recreation – 10 pts.**
Acquisition of Grassy Mtn Addition would increase hunting, angling, trapping, wildlife watching, and other recreational opportunities in the Mt Haggin WMA area. Oregon Creek and the associated wetlands would provide walk-in angling and trapping opportunities. The property would provide hunting opportunities for mountain grouse, moose, elk, black bear and mule deer. Birders would enjoy the many species of birds that are supported by the wetland and high elevation forest communities. The property would also provide winter recreation (snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling) that this portion of Mt Haggin WMA provides. Acquisition of this property is expected to add approximately 100-150 recreational use days to Mt Haggin WMA.
- f) **Management Considerations – 10 pts.**
Upon acquisition, Grassy Mtn Addition will be managed as part of Mt Haggin WMA. No additional staffing or equipment will be required. Minimal infrastructure improvements will need to be made (sign the boundaries of the property and removing any unwanted fencing). The property will be surveyed and treated for weeds.